

Jan. 5 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2001

I thank you for the honor of doing my part these last 8 years. God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5 p.m. in Conmy Hall at Fort Myer. In his remarks, he referred

to Janet Cohen, wife of Secretary of Defense William Cohen, and Carolyn Shelton, wife of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA.

Statement on John M. Shalikashvili's Report on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

January 5, 2001

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John M. Shalikashvili and I met this morning to discuss his report concerning the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The report argues persuasively that ratifying the CTBT would increase our national security and that the security benefits of the treaty outweigh any perceived disadvantages.

The report's recommendations address concerns raised during the October 1999 Senate

debate over CTBT. I urge Congress and the incoming Bush administration to act on them.

I also hope the Senate will take up the treaty at an early date as a critical component of a bipartisan nonproliferation policy. CTBT is supported by our friends and allies overseas and designed to reduce existing nuclear dangers as well as those that might emerge in the future.

I commend General Shalikashvili for his thorough and rigorous report and his continued service to the Nation.

The President's Radio Address

January 6, 2001

Good morning. I want to start off with some good news. For the first time in a dozen years, the number of Americans who lack health insurance is declining. One of the main reasons is that more and more uninsured children from low- and moderate-income working families are now getting health coverage through a program called CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program. It was a part of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Today I want to announce some more good news about CHIP and discuss new actions I'm taking to strengthen the program. In just 12 months the number of children served by the Children's Health Insurance Program has grown by 70 percent. Today, more than 3.3 million children have health insurance under CHIP. That's making a real difference in their health and in costs to the health care system. We know that when uninsured children get health coverage, they go to the doctor's office more often

and to the emergency room less often, and they're less likely to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been treated earlier and less expensively outside a hospital.

The success of CHIP is particularly impressive when you consider that the program has only been up and running for 3 years. It's a testament to the diligent efforts of the Federal, State, and local officials who run the program and to the love that parents have for their children.

Yet, there are still millions of children who are eligible for CHIP but aren't signed up, and millions of others who are eligible for health coverage under Medicaid but aren't getting it there, either. In most of these cases, parents just don't know about the benefits or mistakenly think their children aren't eligible. Also, in some States the application process is simply too daunting. As a nation, we must do more to reach out to these families so that their children will get health care coverage, too. I'm pleased